

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 04271 220936Z

46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-09 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-10

NSCE-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/093 W

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R 220710Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4649

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ISLAMBAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

/USLO PEKING 3984

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 4271

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH

SUBJ: VARIANT CHINESE VIEWS OF WORLD WAR THREAT

1. THE MONTHS-OLD CHINESE PRESENTMENT OF A RISING THREAT OF
WORLD WAR APPARENTLY HAS TWO VARIANTS DEPENDING UPON THE
AUDIENCE. THIS IS QUITE CLEAR IN CONTRASTING SPEECHES
MADE APRIL 20 BY VICE PREMIER CHI TENG-KUEI, TOASTING
THE BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER IN PEKING, AND VICE PREMIER LI
HSIEN-NIEN IN RAWALPINDI REPLYING TO A TOAST BY PAKISTAN'S
PRIME MINISTER. CHI SEES UNABATED SUPERPOWER CONTENTION AS
"BOUND TO LEAD TO WAR," AND SOMETHING "INDEPENDENT OF MAN'S
WILL." LI, ON THE OTHER HAND, SEES ONLY "THE DANGER OF A
NEW WORLD WAR . . . INEVITABLY INCREASING," AND ADDS "WE
ARE, HOWEVER, CONVINCED THAT THE DESTINY OF MANKIND IS NOT
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PAGE 02 HONG K 04271 220936Z

DECIDED BY THE ONE OR TWO SUPERPOWERS BUT BY THE INCREASINGLY

AWAKENING PEOPLE OF ALL COUNTRIES."

2. WE SEE NO REASON TO THINK CHI AND LI HOLD DIFFERENT VIEWS
OR THAT THEIR SPEECHES WERE UNCOORDINATED. RATHER, WE WOULD
GUESS THE CHINESE PREFER TO PAINT THE THREAT OF WAR IN
VIVID HUE FOR DETENTE-STRUCK MEMBERS OF NATO, BUT TO SOFTEN
THE TONE FOR THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WHERE SOME, PERHAPS
PAKISTAN AMONG THEM, DO NOT NEED TENSING. THESE VARIANTS
SUGGEST THE REAL CHINESE VIEW OF CURRENT PROSPECTS FOR WAR IS
HAZY, THAT THEY DO NOT EXPECT WAR NOR WANT IT BUT SEE
POLITICAL ADVANTAGE IN PLAYING ON THE THEME TO BLACKEN THE
SUPERPOWERS AND DETENTE.
CROSS

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